

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
4 December 2003 (04.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/099406 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A63H 3/31,
19/20, 3/28, 13/02, 3/36, 30/00, 3/14, 11/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US03/15120

(22) International Filing Date: 14 May 2003 (14.05.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/381,722 17 May 2002 (17.05.2002) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THIN
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Ewing, NJ 08638 (US).(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE,
SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,
VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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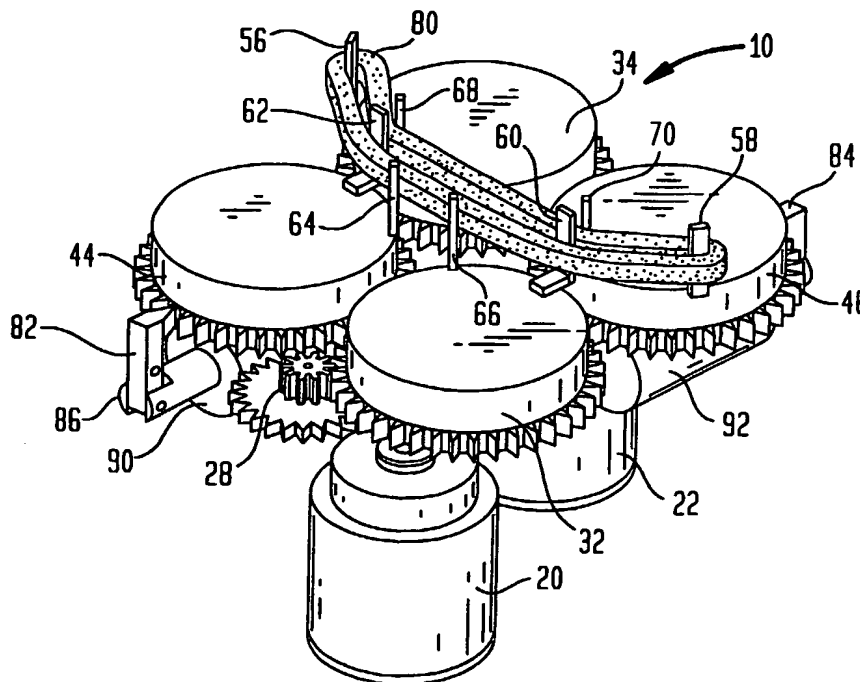
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Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: EXPRESSIVE FEATURE MECHANISM FOR ANIMATED CHARACTERS AND DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A mechanism for animated characters capable of visually communicating facial expressions is provided. The mechanism (10) has two mesh gears per upper or lower lip (fig 1b). One gear of each pair is rotated by a single drive (20, 22). Each gear has two guidance devices (60, 62, 56, 58). Rotation of any gear to which the elastomeric material (80) is connected via a guidance device results in the stretch or ability to retract the elastomeric material. Secondary guidance devices (64, 66, 68, 70) on a gear, when in contact with the elastomeric material, cause an inflection or deflection of the elastomeric material. Resulting stretch or bending of the elastomeric material mimics facial expressions.

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